GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:527
ANSWERED ON:11.04.2017
Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers
Ram Mohan Naidu Shri Kinjarapu;Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of manual scavengers identified along with the number of such persons rehabilitated during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(b) the budgetary allocation made and the expenditure incurred on rehabilitation of manual scavengers during the said period, State/UT-wise;

(c) the action being taken by the Government to tackle the said problem including providing alternative employment and skill training to such persons;

(d) the problems faced by the Government for elimination of the practice of manual scavenging; and

(e) whether the Government has fixed any time frame to make India free from manual scavenging and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI THAAWARCHAND GEHLOT)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 527 for 11.04.2017 by Dr. Kirit P. Solanki and Shri Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu regarding Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers.

(a): The number of Manual scavengers identified during the past three years are 12,742. Out of which, 11,598 have been provided onetime cash assistance of Rs.40,000/- each. In addition, proposals for skill development training of 13,827 manual scavengers and their dependents and self employment projects for 658 beneficiaries have been sanctioned during this period. State-wise details of Manual scavengers identified by the States and Union Territories(UTs) and rehabilitation benefits provided under the "Self Employment Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers" (SRMS) upto 31.03.2017 are given in the Annexure-I.

(b): The budget allocation under the "Self Employment Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers" (SRMS) from 2014-15 to 2017-18 is as under:

(Rs. in Cr.)

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Budget Allocation
1	2014-15	448
2	2015-16	470.19
3	2016-17	10
4	2017-18	5

SRMS being a Central Sector Scheme no State-wise allocation of funds is made. The scheme is implemented through National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC). An expenditure of Rs.56.12 crores has been incurred during the above period for the rehabilitation of manual scavengers from the corpus available with the NSKFDC from the funds released under SRMS. The State-wise detail of expenditure incurred on the rehabilitation of identified Manual scavengers during the above period is at Annexure-II.

(c): Section 5 of "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013" (MS Act, 2013) prohibits construction of insanitary latrines and engaging of Manual scavengers from the date of commencement of the Act i.e. 06.12.2013. The Act also provides for demolition/conversion of the existing insanitary latrines for which technical and financial assistance is provided by the Ministries of Urban Development and Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission. For the rehabilitation of identified Manual scavengers and their dependents the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing SRMS which provides the following benefits:

(i) Onetime cash assistance of Rs.40,000/- for one member of the identified Manual scavenger's family.

(ii) Skill Development Training with stipend of Rs.3,000/- per month for the training period upto two years or less for the identified Manual scavenger/dependent family members.

(iii) Loans for income generating activities with capital subsidy are provided to the identified Manual scavenger/dependent family members at concessional rate of interest of 5% per annum (4% for women) for projects upto Rs.25,000/- and at the rate of 6% per annum for projects above Rs.25,000/-.

(d) and (e): As indicated in reply to (a) and (b) above, Manual scavenging is prohibited under MS Act, 2013 with effect from 06.12.2013. No person, local authority or any agency shall engage or employ, either directly or indirectly, a Manual scavenger from the above date and every person so engaged or employed shall stand discharged immediately from any obligation express or implied, to do Manual scavenging. Any contravention in this regard is punishable with imprisonment or fine or both as per the provisions of the MS Act, 2013.

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